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DE RUEHFR #4255 2880648  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 150648Z OCT 07  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0776  
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES  
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE 1915  
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG 0496  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2747  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 004255

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BRUSSELS PASS USEU FOR AGMINCOUNSELOR  
STATE FOR OES; EUR/ERA AND EB(SPIRNAK);  
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY;  
USDA/OS/CONNER/TERPSTRA;  
USDA/FAS FOR OA/YOST;  
OCRA/CURTIS  
STA/SIMMONS/JONES/HENNEY  
FAA/YOUNG;  
EU POSTS PASS TO AGRICULTURE AND ECON  
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: FRANCE'S ABSTENTION AT EU REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER  
10

REF: (A) STATE 140452 (B) PARIS 3967  
(C) PARIS 4170

On October 10, France abstained on four biotech product votes at the EU regulatory committee (Reftel A). France provided no scientific rationale for its action. We expect France to abstain on all votes involving biotechnology approvals pending the outcome of an ongoing environmental public process (Reftel B and C) which should conclude in late October/early November. Government sources confirm that future votes will depend on the outcome of this process, whether France will be prepared to adopt clear positions on biotech products before the next EU regulatory committee vote on November 22 - 23 remains uncertain.

PEKALA